

V. REMARKS

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over in Uotome et al. [6,075,429] in view of Chikira et al. [5,003,274]. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The object of the present invention is to provide a contact device which can '*prevent*' a side slip of the movable contact when it is switched (lines 12 to 14, page 2). On the other hand, Chikira et al. discloses a contact device which is so-called a sliding contact having a movable contact and a fixed contact possible to contact slidingly with each other (column 2, lines 67-68). In other words, the object of Chikira et al. is to provide a contact device which can '*slidingly*' contact with each other. That is, the object of the present invention is the exact opposite of Chikira et al. Therefore, the logic of the United States Patent and Trademark Office that one of ordinary skill in the art uses the contact engagement design of Chikira et al. with the contacts of Uotome et al. in order to achieve the present invention is not appropriate under the circumstances.

Furthermore, Claim 1 of the present invention distinctly limits that the fixed contacts and the movable contacts are arranged such that a **resultant force** of the first force and the second force acts in a direction normal to a contact surface defined between the fixed contacts and the movable contacts. However, Chikira et al. only discloses that an extension line A extending toward the respective terminals 5 and 6 from the armature 9 intersects an extension line B extending toward the armature 9 from the fixed contact-attaching parts 5b and 6b at the '*prescribed angle*'. That is, Chikira et al. does not make specific mention of the '*prescribed angle*'. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention is not accomplished even if those in the art use the contact engagement design of Chikira et al. with the contacts of Uotome et al.

Based upon the above, it is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the features of the applied art because such combination

would not result in the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 5, 7 and 8 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Uotome et al., as modified, as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Schmid et al. [5,155,459]. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As stated above, claim 1 is allowable over Uotome in view of Chikira. Schmid fails to cure the deficiencies of these two references. As a result, claim 1 is allowable over the combination of Uotome and Schmid.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 2 is allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features it recites.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

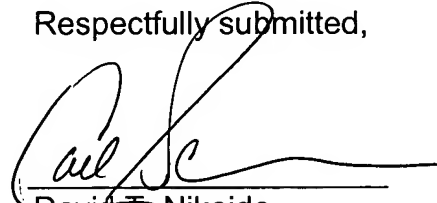
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 15, 2005

By:



David T. Nikaido
Reg. No. 22,663

Carl Schaukowitch
Reg. No. 29,211

RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC
1233 20th Street, N.W. Suite 501
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel: (202) 955-3750
Fax: (202) 955-3751
Customer No. 23353

Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal

DC204098.DOC